

July 12, 2002

Dear Registered Buyer:

The Alaska Region of NOAA Fisheries [National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)] Restricted Access Management Program (RAM), is pleased to introduce a new, Internet-based method of reporting halibut and sablefish Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ), and halibut Community Development Quota (CDQ) landings. The system also may be used to obtain account and vessel balances and to reprint submitted data.

The Internet system is an alternative way to enter and to submit data, and is designed to replace the automated transaction terminals (ATMs), although ATMs will remain available for those without access to the Internet. Although the technology is improving, please note that required landing information, the deadlines by which it must be submitted, and the method by which it may be amended remains essentially the same; further, IFQ/CDQ landing cards are still required.

To use the Internet reporting system, you will need to obtain (at your expense):

- A computer with printer, Internet service and a browser such as Netscape or Internet Explorer; and,
- Printer paper to produce hard copies of landing and other receipts

Also, you will need to provide access to the computer for IFQ cardholders to check account and vessel balances and to reprint previously submitted information.

The new reporting system can be accessed directly at: <https://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/ifqatm> (note use of "https" rather than the usual "http"); or from the RAM area of the NMFS Alaska Region web site at: <http://www.fakr.noaa.gov/ram/ifq.htm>. An Internet reporting "User's Guide" is enclosed and will be posted on the website and periodically updated.

For security purposes, the Internet system requires that you enter some additional information to that required of the ATMs.

- Cardholders will need to log on with their NMFS ID in addition to their permit number and PIN (hired skippers additionally need to enter the ADF&G number of the vessel for which they are authorized to fish). This NMFS ID is also used for all NMFS Alaska Region permits, cards, transfers, address and boat ownership information, etc. (The NMFS IDs have been in use since late 1999 and are different from the old 9 character "IFQ IDs" which are being phased out.) We recently mailed notification of the NMFS IDs to all card holders. Additional

information about the NMFS ID is provided in the enclosure, **“User’s Guide for the IFQ, and Halibut CDQ Internet Reporting System.”**

- Registered Buyers will need to log on with a password. Each Registered Buyer must select its own password, which may be a maximum of 16 characters long, which is case-sensitive. ***Contact NMFS/RAM staff in writing to have us activate your first password.*** Mail, facsimile (FAX), and email contact information and additional information about passwords are provided in the enclosure, **“User’s Guide for the IFQ, and Halibut CDQ Internet Reporting System.”**

We expect that this new reporting option will provide increased convenience for users and will reduce reporting errors. We are considering future projects which would expand Internet reporting, including:

- Submission of the shoreside Registered Buyer annual IFQ Cost Recovery Program Landings and Value Reports;
- Registered Buyer permit applications and renewals;
- Prior Notice of Landing Reports; and
- Product Transfer Reports

We welcome your comments and appreciate the opportunity to improve constituent services. Meanwhile, once you have found this new reporting option convenient and easy to use, we request that you return your ATM, printer, and all associated cables for use by others who do not have Internet access.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Smith, Program Administrator
Restricted Access Management

Enclosure